The Professor Tony Basten Fellowship has been established through a bequest of the late Dr Peter Valese to the Sydney Medical School Foundation. It is awarded as a grant-in-aid to a postdoctoral fellow for research into medical genetics and molecular biology.

Applications must be submitted to the Office of Research and Research Training for consideration by a sub-committee of Sydney Medical School’s Research Committee. The award is made by the Dean on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Sydney Medical School Foundation.

Purpose of the Grant
These grants of up to $50,000 per year are to promote and encourage postdoctoral research in medical genetics and molecular biology. The grants are directed explicitly at Early Career Researchers (ECRs).

Timetable
Applications close: 1 September 2016

DEFINITIONS
Early career researcher: To be considered an early career researcher under this scheme the applicant must have been awarded her/his PhD in 2006 or later and meet the eligibility criteria below.

ELIGIBILITY
- Applicants who do not satisfy the definition of ECR above may present their case as to why they should be considered an ECR within their application. This should be covered in the Track Record section of the application under the heading “Career interruptions”. Circumstances establishing ECR status beyond the primary definition could include career interruptions due to non-research employment, parental leave, misadventure or carer responsibilities.
- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent and would normally be expected to be citizens or have permanent resident status in Australia
- Applicants must either:
  1. hold a salaried academic appointment with the Sydney Medical School up to and including Level B at the date of application or;
  2. have been formally appointed with an academic title (including clinical and conjoint appointments) to the Sydney Medical School in accordance with the “Honorary Titles” policy.

Note: General staff, casuals, adjuncts and honorary research affiliates may not apply. Medical Research Institute staff whose institutes have a current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible to apply if they meet all the other conditions.

- Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing affiliation with the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, by providing a list of publications and other research productivity (e.g. grants and student supervision) for the last five calendar years (or longest time applicable). Applicants must also agree to have their forthcoming research productivity correctly affiliated to the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney and administered by the University of Sydney to be eligible to apply for this scheme. Affiliation must be with the Sydney Medical School or the University of Sydney.
This grant will not be awarded to researchers who are Chief Investigators A (CIAs) on any Category 1 grant which has funding in the year of application, other than training fellowships (e.g. NHMRC Career Development Awards, C J Martin Fellowships).

Applicants who have been a CIA on a Category 1 grant (excluding training awards such as NHMRC Career Development Awards and C J Martin Fellowships) in the past will be ineligible.

Applicants who have previously received funding under this scheme or the ECR/New Staff grants scheme managed by the Sydney Medical School will be ineligible.

The applicant’s School must demonstrate their commitment to the ECR by contributing at least an additional 20% of the amount requested from this scheme. In-kind contributions, such as a contribution to the salary of the applicant or provision of laboratory space or consumables, are not considered sufficient to meet this requirement.

Applicants will be ineligible if:
- They have ever been a CIA on a Category 1 grant (excluding training awards such as NHMRC Career Development Awards and C J Martin Fellowships)
- The amount requested includes the applicant’s salary or part thereof
- The applicant has previously received funding from a similar School scheme
- The applicant has received or is receiving bridging funds or start-up funds from the DVCR. If a successful applicant receives DVCR funding during the period of the grant they must notify the Office of Research and Research Training.
- The applicant is a PhD student
- The application is judged to be a request for top-up funding for an existing project
- The application does not follow the requirements as stated on the application form

General information:
- Applicants may make only one application to this scheme in each round
- This scheme is a single-applicant scheme
- The award is tenable for one year and can only be held once
- Applicants must demonstrate that their proposal is in the fields of medical genetics and molecular biology
- ECR/New Staff Grants cannot be held concurrently with the Professor Tony Basten Fellowship
- This fellowship is not available to purchase equipment or cover travel expenses
- Applicants must hold a salaried appointment for the duration of 2017
- To be considered for this scheme an applicant’s project must be a new, independent project and not part of an existing research program. The applicant must explain in their application how this project will contribute to building their track record and how it will enhance their likely success in external funding rounds in the future. Stand-alone one year projects will not be
considered. Applicants should also indicate which funding agency will be applied to when the pilot project is completed.

- The application must include a budget that covers the entire cost of the project. The application form should show the dollar value of the School/Discipline/Institute's contribution and the amount requested from the scheme as two separate amounts which add up to the total value of the project as listed in the budget.

- Career interruptions will be taken into account in assessing ECR status but researchers in this category must make a case as to why their application should be considered relative to opportunity.

- The applicant's salary cannot make up any part of the budget request. No part of the applicant's salary will be covered by this scheme.

- The assessment of applications and decisions of the sub-committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Applications **must** include:
1. Completed application form
2. PhD award letter
3. Research plan: an outline of no more than 3 pages describing the proposed pilot project including the following points:
   - Project title
   - Aims and significance
   - Research plan, methods & techniques
   - Budget outline (covering the entire cost of the project)
   - Indication of which funding agency will be applied to when the pilot project is completed
4. Track record: maximum 1 page, relative to opportunity, including the impact of the applicant's work. Career interruptions (if applicable) approx. 100 words.
5. Publications list: last 5 years, include citation rates and impact factors
6. Letter of support from the Head of School/Discipline/Institute disclosing other funding (source and amount) available to support the proposed project and confirming continuation of appointment (if applicable)
7. A statement of no more than 1 page outlining how the project will enhance the applicant's ability to successfully apply for external grants in the future.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The following criteria will be applied by the assessment committee when ranking the applications:

1. Excellence of Chief Investigator as demonstrated by Track Record relative to opportunity. This will take into account:
   - Career awards
   - Quality of publications
   - Presentations at conferences

2. Funding potential: Do the person and project have a high likelihood of securing competitive funding in the next 24 months?

3. Quality of the project. This will take into account:
   - Significance
   - Feasibility

4. Environment: Can the project be successfully completed in the area where the applicant plans to do the work?
OBLIGATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLIANTS
Successful applicants will be required to submit an application to external funding bodies such as the NHMRC and/or the ARC through the University of Sydney either in the year immediately after the end of this grant or the following year, i.e. 2016 or 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION
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